



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH

- WHEREAS: In Georgia, more than 80,000 individuals reside in long-term care facilities, including approximately 370 nursing facilities and 2,600 board and care, personal care homes, and assisted living communities; and
- WHEREAS: Federal and state laws guarantee and protect the rights of residents to promote and maintain dignity and autonomy. All residents should be informed of their rights so that they are comfortable and feel empowered to live with pride and self-determination; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia reaffirms the rights of each long-term care resident to participate in decisions including those regarding health care, exercising the right to vote, and engaging in the political process; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations and individuals work to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of long-term care facility residents, acting as a voice for those who often cannot speak for themselves and collaborating with state and law enforcement agencies to intervene and prevent resident abuse; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, authorized by the Federal Older Americans Act and Georgia law, was established nearly four decades ago to improve the quality of care and quality of life of residents living in long-term care facilities; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia joins in celebrating the individuals who live in long-term care residences. Citizens are encouraged to celebrate their rich individuality, reaffirm their right to political participation, and recognize their input in decisions regarding care; and
- WHEREAS: During Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month, individuals and organizations across the country will recognize the theme "Speak Up: Know Your Rights and How to Use Them" to emphasize the importance of residents being informed about their rights, being engaged partners in achieving quality care and quality of life, and feeling confident to speak up about what is important to them; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2018 as LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF